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Remarks

The various claims in this preliminary amendment find support throughout applicant's disclosure, as well as the disclosure in U.S. patents 6,061,443; 6,343,125; and 6,687,365 from which the present application claims priority.

Following extensive disclosure of devices and methods to simplify area code dialing by enabling seven and seven-digit-plus-one-stroke dialing in light of area code splits, overlays, and prospective numbering plan changes disruptive to established dialing patterns, paragraph 87 of applicant's disclosure, which also appears in all of the above-noted priority patents, states as follows:

"Further, the user could select one area code for pure 7 digit dialing (no timing delay). Thus, if a user wanted to still be able to make all of his or her 818 calls by only dialing 7 digits, the user would tell the switch that any call placed by that user which doesn't start with a 0 or a 1 will always be a call intended for the 818 area code. Another customer might prefer to make 626 his or her special 7 digit area code. If this feature could be changed at will, the user could make his or her phone behave as if it were located in any area code, at any time. A phone in California, for example, would be able to dial 7 digit numbers in a New York area code! In this way, after choosing an area code, all calls dialed afterwards may be dialed with only 7 digits (not 8). . . Or, if the user wanted to place many calls to the 202 area code, he or she could press or program the 202 button, and from then on dial all calls to that area code using

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only 7 digits. . ."

The foregoing taken in combination with applicant's overall disclosure, clearly supports "designating a destination area code" and "causing said call to be signaled using the designated destination area code in combination with the specified seven-digit telephone number, without the user entering said designated destination area code when specifying said seven-digit telephone number," and apparatus variations of the above, as specified in independent claims 10, 59, 142, 148, 152, 160 and their dependents.

Paragraph 80 states: "CPE could optionally be supplemented with a set of "hot buttons" on the phone which would be programmed to specific . . . 1+3 digit area codes. By pressing one of these buttons at the start of a call, one could dial a . . . 1+10 digit phone number with only 8 key presses (hot button + 7 digit number)." This is further discussed in paragraphs 86 and 91, for example.

The foregoing, in combination with applicant's overall disclosure, further supports "associating a plurality of area code selectors with a plurality of area codes" and "the user selecting one of said area code selectors and thereby selecting its associated area code," and apparatus variations of the above, as specified in independent claims 108, 125, 146, 156, 158, 164 and their dependents, as well as dependent claims 12 and 61 and their dependents.

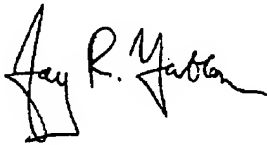
Conclusion

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All of these claims are fully supported by applicant's disclosure and by the disclosures from which priority is claimed. Aside from applicant's own priority patents, the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest or motivate any of these
5 claims.

Applicant respectfully looks forward to a favorable examination based on these amended claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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